available to disabled persons and it would tantamount to the beginning of commercialization process of welfare;

(d) if so, the reasons for change; and

(e) what steps have been taken to safeguard and continue the working of NGOs for the welfare of disabled persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Guidelines for assisting non-government organisations / voluntary organizations issued in June 2000, *inter alia*, include provisions for tapering off the financial assistance released to those organizations that have been drawing Grants in Aid from the Ministry for periods in excess of 5 years for the same project. These also provide that assistance from the Government shall be limited to a duration of 10 years in case of new projects. The ongoing projects that have been receiving assistance for the last 10 years and above will be given a phase out period of 5 years and in respect of those assisted for lesser period the phase out period shall be 10 years. Where the phase out period is 5 years grants will reduce by an amount of 20% every year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The guidelines provide, *inter alia*, that new projects in rural areas, projects from locally based organizations with involvement of community and projects of established voluntary organisations in green field areas will be favoured. This is expected to lead to horizontal spread of development alongside sectoral growth in spheres that have as yet received less attention. The coverage for the welfare of the disabled in respect of number of beneficiaries as well as geographical areas served is expected to increase as of result of this initiative.

Review Committee for Creamy layer in OBC

1544. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1367 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 2000 regarding Constitution of Review Committee for creamy layer in O.B.C. and state:

(a) the names of the Ministries / Commissions with whom consultation is going on for the setting up of a Review Committee for creamy layer and since when alongwith the response received from them;

(b) in what manner those Departments are connected with this matter; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have stated this consultation only to scuttle the move for the formation of Review Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs (Department of Legal Affairs), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training) Ministry of Homer Affairs, Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) and the Planning Commission have been consulted on the subject relating to constitution of Review Committee for identification of Creamy Layer, as it involves legal, administrative and financial issues. The National Commission for Schedule Castes & Schedule Tribes and National Commission for Backward (NCBC) have also been consulted keeping in view the provisions of Article 338 of the Constitution of India and NCBC Act 1993 respectively. The comments of these Ministries / Departments and Commission have been received.

(c) No, Sir. The Government is making sincere efforts to constitute the Review Committee.

Blue print for National Steel Policy

†1545. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have already prepared a blue-print for National Steel Policy;

(b) if so, by when the National Steel Policy is expected to be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel has been set up to prepare the Draft National Steel Policy.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.